Appln. No.: 10/588,027

Amendment Dated February 8, 2010

Reply to Office Action of November 6, 2009

<u>Amendments to the Claims:</u> This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Listing of Claims:

- 1. 6. (Cancelled)
- 7. (Currently Amended) Double-flow exhaust system for an internal-combustion engine comprising:

two exhaust-gas-carrying pipes that are configured to receive gasses produced by the internal-combustion engine,

at least one muffler and catalyst housing associated with each exhaust-gascarrying pipe, each muffler including at least two ports extending therefrom, wherein each port of a muffler is provided for either receiving exhaust gases from another muffler or directing exhaust gases out of the muffler,

a first removably mountable connection pipe for fluidically connecting the mufflers of the exhaust-gas-carrying pipes, wherein the first removably mountable connection pipe is a T-pipe that includes two inlet ports that are oriented along a common axis and an outlet port that is oriented substantially perpendicular to the common axis of the inlet ports, each inlet port of the first removably mountable connection pipe being configured to be removably mounted to a single port of a respective muffler to receive exhaust gases from the muffler, and said outlet port of said first removably mountable connection pipe being configured to discharge the exhaust gases to a location outside of the internal-combustion engine, and

a second removably mountable connection pipe for fluidically connecting the mufflers of the exhaust-gas-carrying pipes, wherein the second removably mountable connection pipe includes two connecting pieces each extending out of a respective muffler housing, wherein end faces of the connecting pieces are separated by a gap that is covered by a joint sliding sleeve that is directly connected to the connecting pieces ports, each port of the second removably mountable connection pipe being configured to be removably mounted to a port of a respective muffler to muffle noise created by the internal combustion engine.

8. (Previously Presented) Double-flow exhaust system according to claim 7, wherein the T-pipe includes two connecting pieces, each of which includes one of the inlet ports

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and is connectable with a respective muffler, and a third connecting piece that defines the outlet port and is usable as a discharge for exhaust gases to outside the engine.

- 9. (Previously Presented) Double-flow exhaust system according to claim 8, wherein a tail pipe cover is mountable on the third connecting piece.
 - 10. (Cancelled)
 - 11. (Cancelled)
- 12. (Previously Presented) Double-flow exhaust system according to claim 7, wherein a catalyst is provided for each exhaust line, and is partially integrated or received in a muffler housing.
- 13. (Previously Presented) Double-flow exhaust system according to claim 12, wherein the T-pipe includes two connecting pieces, each of which includes one of the inlet ports and is connectable with a respective muffler, and a third connecting piece that defines the outlet port and is usable as a discharge for exhaust gases to outside the engine.
- 14. (Previously Presented) Double-flow exhaust system according to claim 13, wherein a tail pipe cover is mountable on the third connecting piece.
 - 15. (Cancelled)
 - 16. (Cancelled)
- 17. (Currently Amended) A method of assembling a double-flow exhaust system for an internal-combustion engine including two exhaust-gas-carrying pipes that are configured to receive gasses produced by the internal-combustion engine, and at least one muffler and catalyst housing associated with each exhaust-gas-carrying pipe, said method comprising the steps of:

coupling an <u>a first</u> inlet port of a first removably mountable connection pipe to a first port defined in a muffler of a first exhaust-gas-carrying pipe;

coupling another a second inlet port of the first removably mountable connection pipe to a <u>first</u> port defined in a muffler of a second exhaust-gas-carrying pipe such that the inlet

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ports of the first removably mountable connection pipe are oriented along a single common axis;

positioning an outlet port of the first removably mountable connection pipe such that exhaust gases produced by the internal-combustion engine are discharged to a location outside of the internal-combustion engine;

coupling a port of a second removably mountable connection pipefirst end of a sleeve to another a second port defined in the muffler of the first exhaust-gas-carrying pipe; and

coupling another port of the second removably mountable a second end of the sleeve connection pipe to a second port defined in the muffler of the second exhaust-gas-carrying pipe to muffle noise created by the internal combustion engine.